

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An assembly for use in continuously forming a plurality of lengths of flexible noise attenuating cutting line for use in rotary vegetation trimmers comprised of at least two strands of monofilament bonded together in a twisted disposition, said assembly comprising: a housing having a chamber therein; a channel disposed within said housing above said chamber adapted for fluid communication with a source of molten monofilament for directing molten monofilament to said chamber; a breaker plate disposed in a lower portion of said chamber, said plate defining an upwardly projecting conical inner portion and a substantially planar outer portion, said inner portion directing molten monofilament from said channel downwardly and outwardly onto said outer portion; a plurality of extrusion dies disposed in said outer portion of said breaker plate, each of said dies defining a die hole configuration in the lower end thereof for the extrusion of at least two strands of molten monofilament therethrough; and a drive assembly for rotating each of said dies at a speed to effect a twisting together of the molten strands of monofilament being extruded through each of said dies.

2. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said drive assembly comprises a plurality of drive cylinders, each of said cylinders engaging one of said dies, a plurality of gears, each of said gears being operatively connected to one of said drive cylinders and at least one of the other gears, and a drive motor operatively connected to one of said gears for synchronously rotating all of said gears whereby said dies are caused to undergo synchronous rotation.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein each of said dies has elongated body portion defining a drive engagement surface, said die hole configuration being disposed in a lower extended end of said body portion and wherein each of said drive cylinders defines an interior drive engagement surface abutting a drive engagement surface on one of said dies so that synchronous rotation of said drive cylinders effects synchronous rotation of said dies.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of circular holes of equal diameter spaced apart a distance less than said diameter.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a plurality of holes connected together at adjacent edge portions.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a single hole having the configuration of the cross-section of an oblate spheroid.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of holes connected together by a thin web portion.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the die hole configuration in at least one of said dies is different from the die hole configuration in at least one of the other of said dies.

10. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

11. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 6 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

12. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 7 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

13. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

14. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 9 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

15. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said drive assembly comprises a planetary gear assembly operatively connected to said extrusion dies for synchronously rotating each of said dies at said speed.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of circular holes of equal diameter spaced apart a distance less than said diameter.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of holes connected together at adjacent edge portions.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of holes connected together by a thin web portion.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 15 wherein the die hole configuration in at least one of said dies is different from the die hole configuration in at least one of the other of said dies.

20. (Previously presented) An assembly for use in continuously forming a plurality of lengths of flexible noise attenuating cutting line for use in rotary vegetation trimmers comprised of one or more twisted strands of monofilament, said assembly comprising: a housing having a chamber therein; a channel disposed within said housing above said chamber adapted for fluid communication with a source of molten monofilament for directing molten monofilament to said chamber; a breaker plate disposed in a lower portion of said chamber, said plate defining an upwardly projecting conical inner portion and a substantially planar outer portion, said inner portion directing molten monofilament from said channel downwardly and outwardly onto said outer portion; a plurality of extrusion dies disposed in said outer portion of said breaker plate, each of said dies defining a die hole configuration in the lower end thereof for the extrusion of one or more strands of molten monofilament therethrough; and a drive assembly for rotating each of said dies at a speed to effect a twisting of the molten strand or strands of monofilament being extruded through each of said dies.

21. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 20 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 20 wherein said drive assembly comprises a plurality of drive cylinders, each of said cylinders engaging one of said dies, a plurality of gears, each of said gears being operatively connected to one of said drive cylinders and at least one of the other gears, and a drive motor operatively connected to one of said gears for synchronously rotating all of said gears whereby said dies are caused to undergo synchronous rotation.

23. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 wherein each of said dies has elongated body portion defining a drive engagement surface, said die hole configuration being disposed in a lower extended end of said body portion and wherein each of said drive cylinders defines an interior drive engagement surface abutting a drive engagement surface on one of said dies so that synchronous rotation of said drive cylinders effects synchronous rotation of said dies.

24. (Original) The assembly of claim 20 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a pair of circular holes of equal diameter spaced apart a distance less than said diameter.

25. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

26. (Original) The assembly of claim 20 wherein said die hole configuration in each of said dies comprises a single hole having the configuration of the cross-section of an oblate spheroid.

27. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26 wherein said drive assembly is operatively connected to said dies so as to effect synchronous rotation of each of said dies at said speed whereby an equal number of twists per foot in the lengths of formed cutting line is defined.

28. Cancelled.

29. Cancelled.

30. Cancelled.

31. Cancelled.

32. Cancelled.

33. Cancelled.

34. Cancelled.

35. Cancelled.

36. Cancelled.

37. Cancelled.

38. Cancelled.

39. Cancelled.

40. Cancelled.

41. Cancelled.

42. Cancelled.

43. (Currently Amended) An assembly for use in continuously forming a plurality of lengths of flexible noise attenuating cutting line for use in rotary vegetation trimmers comprised of one or more twisted strands of monofilament, said assembly comprising: a housing having a chamber therein; a breaker plate disposed in said chamber; a channel disposed within said housing adapted for fluid communication with a source of molten monofilament and an upper portion of said chamber for directing molten monofilament to said chamber above said breaker plate, said plate defining an inclined inner portion and a substantially planar outer portion, ~~The assembly of claim 38 wherein said inclined inner portion of said breaker plate is being~~ of a conical configuration projecting upwardly from said outer portion and directing molten monofilament from said channel onto said outer portion; a plurality of extrusion dies disposed in said outer portion of said breaker plate, each of said dies defining a die hole configuration in the lower end thereof for the extrusion of one or more strands of molten monofilament therethrough; and a

drive assembly for rotating each of said dies to effect a twisting of the molten strand or strands of monofilament being extruded through each of said dies; a cooling quench bath disposed below said dies; a guide assembly mounted in said quench bath for receiving said one or more twisted molten strands of monofilament from said dies and directing said strands through said bath; and a plurality of drive rollers for pulling said strands through said bath so as to effect sufficient crystallization of said strands such that upon said strands being pulled from said bath, heated and stretched, said strands will retain a twisted configuration.

44. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 43 wherein said drive assembly comprises a plurality of drive cylinders, each of said cylinders engaging one of said dies, a plurality of gears, each of said gears being operatively connected to one of said drive cylinders and at least one of the other gears, and a drive motor operatively connected to one of said gears for synchronously rotating all of said gears whereby said dies are caused to undergo synchronous rotation.